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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE LAND MAMMAL.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The ōpeʻapeʻa, otherwise known as the Hawaiian  
2 hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*), is Hawaii's only endemic  
3 land mammal and is a subspecies found only in Hawaii. This bat  
4 is a subspecies of the North American hoary bat.

5       An adult Hawaiian hoary has an approximate twelve to  
6 fifteen inch wingspan, weighs approximately as much as a mouse,  
7 and flies at a speed of up to sixty miles per hour while  
8 pursuing mosquitoes, insects, and other night-land aerial prey.  
9 A single Hawaiian hoary bat can consume forty per cent of its  
10 body weight in a single night.

11       On October 13, 1970, the ōpeʻapeʻa (Hawaiian hoary bat) was  
12 listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act  
13 and the State of Hawaii's endangered species list. Population  
14 estimates for the ōpeʻapeʻa have ranged from hundreds to a few  
15 thousand. The magnitude of any current population decline is  
16 unknown; however, observation and specimen records suggest that  
17 the ōpeʻapeʻa is now absent from historically occupied ranges.



1 The legislature finds that preserving the ōpeʻapeʻa, which is  
2 found only in Hawaii, is important to Hawaii's heritage and  
3 culture.

4 The purpose of this Act is to recognize the importance of  
5 the ōpeʻapeʻa to the State of Hawaii and raise awareness of the  
6 ōpeʻapeʻa as an endangered species and uniquely Hawaiian land  
7 mammal by designating the ōpeʻapeʻa as the official land mammal  
8 of the State.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
10 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to  
11 read as follows:

12 "§5- State land mammal. The ōpeʻapeʻa, otherwise known  
13 as the Hawaiian hoary bat (Lasiurus cinereus semotus), is  
14 established and designated as the official land mammal of the  
15 State."

16 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18



**Report Title:**

Ōpeʻapeʻa; State Land Mammal

**Description:**

Designates the ōpeʻapeʻa (aka Hawaiian hoary bat) as the state land mammal. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

